

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Entities

- Political subdivisions of the state,
- Indian nations, tribes and pueblos
- For-profit business enterprises (including a corporation, limited liability company, sole proprietor, public benefit corporation, social enterprise)
- Cooperatively owned businesses
- Tax-exempt nonprofit corporations
- Small farmers with gross cash farm income under \$250,000 are eligible (commercial and noncommercial farms).

All successful grantees are required to provide an IRS Form W-9.

Ineligible Entities

- Individuals are NOT eligible to apply.
- Restaurants that are primarily focused on the sale of prepared, hot foods in a restaurant or takeaway setting to consumers are NOT eligible to apply.
- Entities wishing to lend or regrant the funds are NOT eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects

The FY 2023 New Mexico HFFF offer flexible, financial assistance in the form of competitive grants to eligible entities in the following four (4) eligible project areas:

1. grocery store infrastructure upgrades proposed to improve the availability and quality of healthy food;
2. establishment of farmers' markets, farm stands, food cooperatives, community gardening projects and mobile food markets;
3. land-based food production and agricultural operations, controlled environment food production operations and value-added operations; and
4. food aggregation, processing and distribution projects, including hub distribution projects proposed to benefit local food producers and to improve food retailer access to fresh produce and healthy food.

The HFFF Program will provide grants to Eligible Entities in Underserved Communities to implement an Eligible Project that is designed to improve access and affordability of Healthy Food.

The program intends to support Eligible Projects aiming to strengthen, expand, and innovate within the food supply chain. The program will assist a variety of organizations, business models, and capital needs of ventures that process, distribute, aggregate, market, and sell healthy, foods to people in Underserved Communities.

Eligible Entities may be a variety of different kinds of organizations or businesses, but applications should demonstrate how the project to be funded

will support the creation, expansion, or retention of a food retail or food/agricultural enterprise business model.

Eligible Uses of Project Funds:

The FY 2023 New Mexico HFFF funds may be used in a variety of ways to support eligible projects. Grants will be made to eligible entities assist projects with a variety of aspects of project development, renovation, and/or expansion. Grants are designed to be one-time cash infusions into eligible projects. The following non-exhaustive list provides a guide:

1. Site acquisition and preparation;
2. Equipment, fleet, supplies and furnishings;
3. Associated and relevant infrastructure;
4. Working capital for first-time inventory and start-up costs;
5. Business process upgrades; and
6. Brand development and marketing.

Eligible Locations/Areas

Projects must be directed to Underserved Communities.

There is no minimum population size for the underserved community, nor prescriptive requirement to serve a particular size of geography within New Mexico.

Instead, projects must identify the location and/or nature of the Underserved Communities they seek to serve, and a reasonable approximation of the number of individuals who will benefit from the project.

Underserved Communities also include, for the purposes of the HFFF, those communities and populations served through the NM Grown program. These vulnerable populations include children, elders, and families that are served through institutions participating in NM Grown, such as schools, senior centers, early childcare facilities, and food banks.

Projects in underserved urban and rural areas are eligible.